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Cc: []

From: CN=Stephanie Flaharty/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US

Sent: Fri 5/25/2012 1:14:29 PM

Subject: EnergyWire: Wyo. floats cistern network for Pavillion residents

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WATER:

Wyo. floats cistern network for Pavillion residents

Published: Friday, May 25, 2012

Later this month, Wyoming officials will hear Pavillion residents' thoughts on whether to install water cisterns for households whose drinking water has allegedly been polluted by hydraulic fracturing.

The state is also discussing the possibility of having natural gas firm Encana Corp. subsidize the cost of water deliveries for the cisterns, said Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead (R). State officials and company executives have continued their talks, even though they have both disputed a December U.S. EPA report that linked fracturing, also known as fracking, to regional water contamination (E&ENews PM, Dec. 8, 2011).

Some Pavillion residents say fracturing, which involves blasting chemical-laced fluid into shale rock fissures to release gas, has polluted the water they draw from their wells.

Fracturing supporters say there is no evidence of that.

At a May 31 meeting at a local high school, Wyoming officials will see whether the 35 or so residents living in or near the gas field would like to receive individual water cisterns.

The state would pay the \$5,000 to \$10,000 it costs to install each cistern, said Wyoming Water Development Commission Director Mike Purcell. The funds would come from money designated by the state Legislature earlier this year for that purpose, he added.

But residents would be responsible for paying about \$100 to \$200 a month to truck in the water from Pavillion or Riverton, although it is possible Encana, which has been blamed for groundwater contamination, could help offset those costs, Mead said. State officials asked EPA, which is conducting further tests on Pavillion wells, to contribute to the water transport costs, but those requests were denied, he added.

By informal agreement, the cistern water would be only for residential use, Purcell said. It will take about

six months to a year to install the cisterns, he said.

If residents do not like the cistern proposal, the only remaining option is to install individual reverse-osmosis filtration systems, which can be costly and difficult to maintain, Purcell said. A water pipeline proposed by Mead earlier this year would be too expensive, he added.

"I don't know what else we would do," Purcell said (Jeremy Pelzer, Casper [Wyo.] Star-Tribune, May 23). -- PK